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Vietnam Says Shooting Was Planned by C.I.A.

FULLERTON, Calif., Oct. 19 (UPI) — The Hanoi Government said Thursday that the Central Intelligence Agency had masterminded the slaying of a professor known for his pro-Vietnam political views and studies of the herbicide Agent Orange.

An intelligence agency spokesman, the police and the lawyer for the suspect, Minh Van Lam, have all denied the suggestion.

Mr. Lam, a 20-year-old Vietnam refugee, pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges of killing Prof. Edward Lee Cooperman, 48, who was shot in the throat in his office at California State University here last weekend.

Mr. Lam returned to court Thursday for a hearing in which Municipal Court Judge Arthur Guy Jr. reduced his bail from \$250,000 to \$100,000.

The official Vietnam News Agency said from Hanoi Thursday that the slaying had been directed by the intelligence agency because of the victim's pro-Vietnam political views. It also said the death was connected with an earlier slaying.

"On May 28 this year," the news agency said, "the ultra-rightists among the Vietnamese refugees, including C.I.A. agents, had organized the assassination of Mrs. Pham Thi Luu, wife of Mr. Nguyen Van Luy, president of the Vietnamese Resident's Association in the U.S.A."

"These crass acts, masterminded by the C.I.A., were condoned by the Reagan administration,"

Patti Volz, an intelligence agency spokesman, said of the allegation, "It's totally absurd. We don't engage in assassination."

The police this week ruled out speculation that the shooting was linked to Professor Cooperman's political views, saying it appeared instead to be related to his "close relationship" with the suspect.

Mr. Lam's lawyer, Alan May, called Hanoi's charges "irrational, politically motivated, election-year" statements.

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